

Apples on Palomar Mountain

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Mount Helix, California, 2024



Palomar Mountain apple orchard, early 1900s. Robert Asher photo

Sometime before 1890, apple trees were planted on Palomar Mountain aka Smith Mountain, and then harvested in 1890; this newspaper item appeared in April 1891 ^[14]:

The Riverside Press says there is a fine apple orchard of twenty-five acres on top of Smith's Mountain, nearly 4000 feet above the sea. The trees are thrifty and last season bore their first crop. The promise for this year is splendid.

The San Diego Weekly Union published this on May 5, 1892 ^[87]:

It was learned from Superintendent Wagner, who has recently returned from the northern part of the county, that 5,000 apple trees have been planted on Smith mountain this season at an elevation of 5,400 feet. Large quantities of other fruit trees have been set out there this year. ...

The San Diego Union had a note on Palomar Mountain apples in November 1895, which dated the bulk of apple tree planting to 1891 ^[17]:

...The apple crop on Palomar mountain is now gathered, writes a correspondent. The Cook brothers have about 1,500 boxes. Mendenhall, Bailey and Cleaver have a few

boxes, making in all a hundred or so boxes more. The trees, except a very few are under four years old, ...

Marion Beckler wrote that apple orchard planting began earlier, in the 1870s, with no corroboration [3].

APPLE VARIETIES GROWN ON PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

Alexander (1906) [11]
Arkansas Beauty (1920) [28]
Arkansas Black (1931) [47]
Baltimore Red (1906) [11]
Bellflower or Bellefleur (1895,1910) [12]
Ben Davis (1895,1906,1921,1931) [11,17,47,70]
Duchess (1906) [11]
Gano (1906) [11]
Joint Palomar (1901) [54]
Jonathan (1906,1919,1933) [11,51]
Lawver (1906) [11]
Lovell (1931) [47]
Maiden's Blush (1906,1910) [11,13]
Newtown Pippin (1895,1906,1910) [11,80]
Nickajack (1895,1910 named as Crackerjack) [11,17,80]
Northern Spy (1895,1906) [11,17]
Palomar Giant or Palomar Mountain Giant (1895,1918,1919,1920) [16,17,28,70,72]
Pearmain (1897,1906,1931) [11,47,78]
pippins (1911) [26]
Roland Gillette (1895) [45] (see September 1895 comment below)
Rome Beauty (1910) [80]
Smith's Cider (1895,1906,1921) [11,17,70]
Tompkins County aka King aka Tompkins King aka King of Tompkins County (1910,1919) [12,70]
Wagner aka Wagener (1906) [11]
Winesap (1906, 1907,1931) [8,11,47]
Winter Banana (1922) [71]

New Holland Herring

First of the season—
2 for 15c, 4 for 25c

Smith Mountain Maiden Blush Apples

Choice cooking or eating—
Box \$2.00; 4 lbs 25c

Wine Peaches

A small shipment just received. "Ramona's" favorite peach—3 lbs 25c

Concord Grapes

Eastern Variety Concord Grapes; delicious eating—
3 lbs 25c

Hamilton's

eth and C.

San Diego Union, 25 August 1910
Page 4, column 4

Shelby's Self-Service

APPLES

Just received a TRUCK LOAD of Palomar mountain apples . . . five varieties . . . Arkansas Blacks, Pearmain, Ben Davis, Winesaps and Lovells. These apples are all No. 1 quality and the price is exceptionally low.

Per box - - - - \$1.19

About 38 Pounds

Escondido Times-Advocate, November 16, 1931, page 4, column 3

Many Palomar names are associated with growing apples over the years, with some to a larger scale than others: Adams (either William F. or Howard), Milton Fenelon Bailey, William Beach, William Ellsworth Bougher, Newton Ambrose Clark, Clark Cleaver and his brother Kimber Cleaver, Jefferson Madison Cook and his sons George Washington Cook and Hiram Madison Cook, George Doane, Herbert Douglass, Bentley Henry Elmore, Winbert Clarence Fink, James Frazier and his sister Maria Frazier, Nathan H. Hargrave, William Franklin Hewlett, John Mack, Ray McClard, Sylvester J. Mendenhall, Henry D. Meyer, Oliver (either A.D. Oliver or Ernest W. Oliver), William H. Pearson, Nathan Chaffin Pedley and his son Francis Bidwell 'Frank' Pedley, Jack Planwydd Roberts, Louis Shannon Salmons, Benjamin F. Scott, Ambrose Seely Seburn, L. C. Smith, Marion Smith, George L. Travis, and Oscar Williams

[1,2,3,5,6,26,27,28,30,33,34,39,41,49,50,67,82].

Following are selected newspaper items about Palomar Mountain apples, with a focus on growers, varieties, and production.

Agricultural news published in May 1892, included this about San Diego [15]:

MOUNTAIN APPLE ORCHARDS. – S.D. Union: It was learned from Supt. Wagner... that 5000 apple trees have been planted on Smith mountain this season at an elevation of 5400 feet. Large quantities of other fruit trees have been set out there this year. The Julian apple belt, which is 4500 feet above the sea, has produced the finest apples on this coast, and now it looks as though that section will soon have a rival.

A news item on Palomar mountain apples appeared in the Escondido Times in June 1893 [32]:

Clark Cleaver was down from Palomar mountain this Wednesday. He reports crops on the mountain looking fine, and the apple orchards promise a big yield.

A news item on Palomar mountain apples appeared in the San Diego Weekly Union in September 1893 [75]:

H. M. Cook of Nellie, Smith mountain, brought down the finest load of apples last Friday ever offered for sale in Escondido. The apples in one big box average about 12 ounces each, while the largest ones weighed 16 and 17 ounces each. – *Advocate*. [PB Hiram Madison Cook]

A news item on Palomar mountain tree plantings by the Cleavers in the Escondido Times in 1894 [30]:

K. Cleaver, of Santa Ana, passed through town overland Tuesday enroute to Palomar mountain. He had with him a large load of fruit trees which he will set out on his mountain ranch this season. The trees consisted principally of apple and cherry, with some almond and olive, and in all will make an orchard of ten acres. Mr. Cleaver expects to remain on the mountain ranch about two months. [PB: Kimber Cleaver]

Palomar news published in the Escondido Times in June 1894 included this note [31]:

George Cook reports that the apple crop on the east end of the mountain will be up to the average.

A news item on the Cook brothers' Palomar apples appeared in the San Diego Union in September 1895 [45]:

J.S. Mumford has received specimens of monster apples grown by Cook Bros. on Smith mountain, in this county. They are the largest ever seen here. Some weigh twenty-nine ounces each and measure fifteen inches in circumference. They are the Roland Gillette variety. A big box of them will occupy a prominent place during the celebration, labeled "Native Sons and Daughters."


The apple variety name Roland Gillette was perhaps misheard by the newspaper reporter, there seemingly being no such variety; perhaps it was said they were Rome apples developed by Joel Gillette.

A HEARTY WELCOME!

Is extended to our visiting friends, Native Sons and others. We trust you will all hugely enjoy yourselves and that you will long remember Admission Day in San Diego. Call around and see us and we will show you some San Diego county apples, the "Roland Jeanette," raised by Cook Bros. on Smith Mountain.

They weigh from 16 to 27 ounces each, and are probably the largest and nicest apples you ever saw.

Best Arabian Mocha and Java Coffe 3 pounds for	1 00
Pickled Cauliflower, plain and mixed pickles and chow-chow, per bottle.....	15
Compressed Cooked Corn Beef, sliced, 2 pounds for.....	25
Nice northern Burbank Potatoes, per hundred pounds.....	1 00
Cudahy's Rex Hams and Bacon, per pound.....	14
Fresh Apples (45 pounds net weight) per box.....	\$1 00
Eagle Brand Condensed Milk, 3 cans for.....	50
Full line of Cakes and Cookies, strictly fresh, per pound.....	15
Nice firm San Diego Olives, per quart.....	20
Itata Washing Powder, no better made, 3-pound package for.....	20
Itata, Royal Savon, Bay Queen and Tea Lily Soap, 23 bars for.....	\$1.00
Plain or Mixed Pickles in bulk, 3 quarts for.....	25
New crop White Sage Honey, 1-pound cards.....	10
New crop White Sage Strained Honey, nicest you ever saw, 3 pounds for.....	25
Indian hand made Ollas, per gallon.....	20
Tanglefoot Fly Paper, 10 double sheets for.....	25
Rock Salt for freezing Ice Cream, per pound.....	01
Gifford's home-made Virgin Olive Oil, strictly pure, in pints and quarts..	60c and \$1 00

 All goods advertised in the above list can be obtained at the same price at Schaeffer & Mumford's Store in Otay.

J. S. Mumford.

San Diego Union, September 8, 1895, page 2, column 5

A news item on Palomar apple quality appeared in the San Diego Union in November 1895 [18]:

Smith Mountain Apples. A. Cosgrove, who took along a basket of Smith mountain apples on his recent trip to New York city, found that they created a greater surprise among commission men than he anticipated. The apples of mammoth size and excellent quality, were exhibited on the Erie pier and on State street and commission men could not believe they were from Southern California. A letter has been received at Escondido by Cook Bros., from a firm in New York highly praising the fruit, and stating that such apples would command a high figure in London, Liverpool or Havanna.

In November 1895, the Los Angeles Times had this note [16]:

... Cook Bros. of Smith Mountain sold the [Los Angeles] buyers 1400 boxes of apples. Among them are the Palomar Giant apples, weighing thirty ounces each.

The San Diego Union had this note in November 1895 [17]:

Smith Mountain Apples. The apple crop on Palomar mountain is now gathered, writes a correspondent. The Cook brothers have about 1,500 boxes. Mendenhall, Bailey and Cleaver have a few boxes, making in all a hundred or so boxes more. The trees, except a very few are under four years old, but all the mountain apples are very fine and large. Ben Davis, Nickajacks, Smith's Cider, Northern Spy and other varieties frequently averaging ten ounces as gathered from the tree, and keep with but ordinary care till apples come again. There is also the Palomar Giant apple, weighing 25 ounces and even as much as 30 ounces. The mountain land seems to be in every way adapted to the deciduous fruits, and no irrigation is necessary, as orchardists raise all varieties of crops without any moisture except what comes from the clouds direct. [PB: newspaper misspelled Nickajacks as Nichajacks and misnamed Smith's Cider as Smith Cider]

The San Diego Weekly Union had this note in April 1896 [46]:

The apple crop in the Julian region and on Smith mountain will be enormous.

The Oceanside Blade reported in May 1897 [55]:

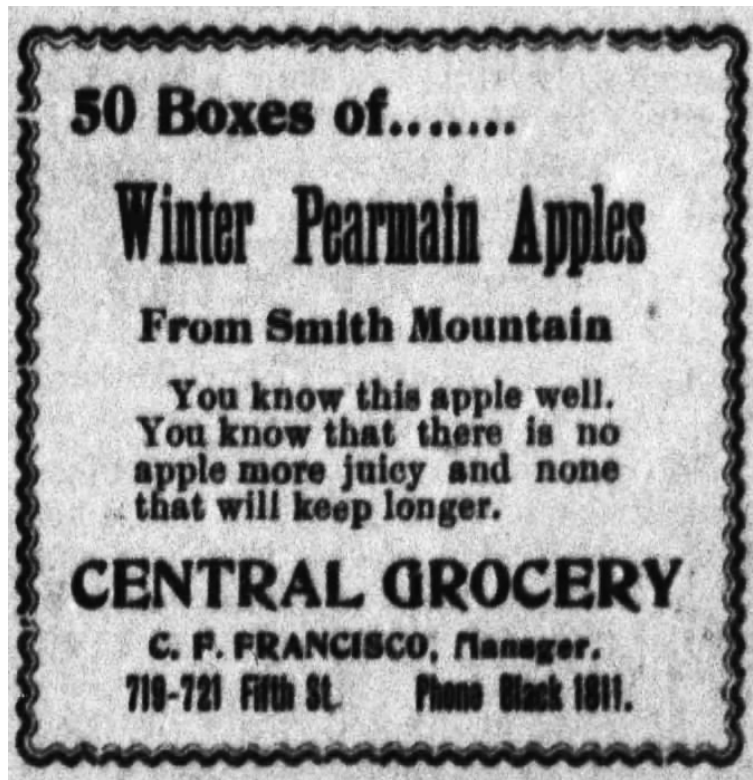
Mr. Shaw, of Baptist Church, is just home from a week's visit to Smith mountain. He reports that ... the apple crop on the east end is a partial failure, while on the west end the crop is abundant ...

The San Diego Evening Tribune ran a note in July 1897, on expected fruit yields [20]:

Chester Gunn, a recognized authority on fruit crops of the Julian country, says that this year there will be a very heavy yield of fruit. "Last year," said Mr. Gunn, "the crops were light. But this year the trees are over-burdened, and bushels of young fruit have to be taken from them." Mr. Gunn estimates the yield ... Smith Mountain, 5,000 [boxes]...

In October 1897, the San Diego Union and Daily Bee reported [19]:

George Cook of Palomar mountain was down this week. He reports their apple crop very light.



San Diego Sun, November 27, 1897, page 5, column 5

In December 1897, the Oceanside Blade reported [67]:

Pearson and Bougher have purchased for \$650 the Quincy place next west to John Mack and are clearing it preparatory to planting it to apple trees. [PB: newspaper misspelled Pearson as Pierson]

The San Diego Evening Tribune ran a note in October 1898, on apple yields [21]:

Ed. Fletcher & Co. have secured the entire Julian apple crop this season. The purchase amounts to 10,000 boxes. ... Fletcher & Co. have also secured the crop at Smith Mountain at 2,500 boxes. The price paid for these apples is \$1.15 per hundred pounds. As an apple producing section Smith Mountain is rapidly coming to the front in this county and promises soon to be a rival to the famous Julian apple district.

The Press and Horticulturist and Riverside County Reflex reported on October 8, 1898 [79]:

Mr. Lewis brought down a load of apples from the Cook brothers ranch on Smith mountain a few days ago.

The San Diego Evening Tribune ran a note in April 1899, on apple crop failure [22]:

A heavy frost on Smith mountain last Sunday night killed the fruit. The apple crop this year promised to be unusually large, but the recent cold weather has been disastrous. On Tuesday night an inch and a half of snow fell at Nellie postoffice.

The Oceanside Blade reported in December 1900 [56]:

Smith Mountain Apples

In the far-away mountain orchards of San Diego county, says the Notes Afield man in the Los Angeles Times, about 150 miles southwest of Los Angeles, I sampled some of the finest apples recently that I have ever tasted. The elevation of this apple country is from 3000 to 5000 feet, that of Smith mountain being the highest. Few of the Times readers ever penetrate that almost inaccessible region named from one of the vast tribe of Smith. The Julian country has been described often, for it is easily reached, in fact has some of the finest roads of any mountainous region in the world. But it is “hard sleddin’” to the orchards of Smith mountain, and that is the greatest drawback to the development of the apple business in that locality so richly endowed with all requisites except accessibility. I saw a team with a light, empty wagon trying to pull up this mountain grade. The driver had to get the assistance of a horseman, who with a riata attached to the end of the wagon tongue and the horn of his saddle helped the adventurous apple buyer up the hill. His apples cost him \$1.25 a hundred, but he returned with a very small load. When the spirit of road improvement seeks the far retreats of San Diego county, it will discover some of the best apple country west of the big divide. – Ex.

“The spirit of road improvement” has already sought the far retreats of San Diego county and now the orchards of Palomar mountain are readily accessible. The mountain is now the yearly mecca of some hundreds of campers and if the Times man will call again he can reach the mountain top with neatness and dispatch, going by team from Oceanside. (Ed.)

The San Diego Evening Tribune ran a note in August 1901, projecting apple crop yield [23]:

... It is estimated that Smith Mountain will furnish the local market with 6000 boxes and that from Julian and vicinity there will be received from 18,000 to 20,00 boxes. ...

The San Diego Evening Tribune had a story on San Diego apple production in September 1901, including [54]:

... This has been a red-letter year for the Palomar fruit growers with apple orchards. The yield has been exceptionally large, and the apples are of better quality than usual. From the Cook orchard, which comprises 25 acres, there will be gathered this fall some 8000 boxes. This is just double the yield last year, and is by far the largest which the orchard has ever produced. Mr. Cook estimates that his crop will increase in equal proportion each succeeding year. If the conditions are as favorable next year he estimates that the yield will aggregate 16,000 boxes, and thereafter it will increase until the trees have attained their prime at the age of 30 years, when the crop will average from 25,000 to 30,000 boxes per annum. The trees now bear about ten boxes to the tree, but when they have reached their majority they will yield 40 boxes per tree. Mr. Cook has 65 trees of his own breed which he has named “Joint Palomar.” The fruit is a mammoth red-cheeked apple, averaging from 16 to 29 ounces in weight. Some of the larger apples are at least six inches in diameter. From these 65 trees Mr. Cook this fall has taken 706 packed boxes, with about 100 boxes of culls. All these apples are of exceptional quality this year. Other orchardists on the mountain are enjoying their share of the general prosperity. ...

The San Diego Union noted in November 1901 [74]:

The Cook ranch, also on Smith mountain, produced 6,000 boxes of apples this season.

The San Diego Union noted in November 1902 [77]:

... One of the finest lots of apples grown this year, comes from the Cook Bros. ranch, on Palomar mountain. ...

The San Diego Union ran a story on the San Diego District Agricultural association fair on February 5, 1903, including [76]:

The annual fair of the San Diego District Agricultural association shows a much better exhibit of the products of the county than any that has been collected together for a long time. The exhibit of apples from Julian and Smith mountain will certainly prove an eye opener to any of those people who look only for citrus fruits in San Diego. ... One of the most instructive of all the exhibits is that which was being installed yesterday by Fletcher, Doyle & Co. for the firm, and for Messrs. Deltrick and Pierce, and the apple growers of the Julian section. The trades display of Fletcher, Doyle & Co., that is the apple portion of it, was grown by George Cook of Palomar mountain. In it were some of the products handled by the firm ... There are over a hundred boxes of apples in the apple exhibit, and all were placed in cold storage by the commission company last fall, partly to keep them for this exhibit and partly to prove how well they would keep in storage. In the displays of Messrs. Deltrick and Pierce there are 37 varieties shown and about 250 plates of them are spread out for the eyes of the visitors. They certainly make the San Diego visitor feel pleased that the display is so fine. ...

The San Diego Union ran a story on the San Diego county apple crop in August 1903 [24]:

BOUGHT THE APPLE CROP

Ed Fletcher Closes Deal for Most of County's Product in Julian Belt

Fruit Will Net the Grower one Cent Per Pound – The Figures

Most of the apples raised this year in the Julian, Smith Mountain and Wynola districts have been purchased by Ed Fletcher of Fletcher Doyle and company, either for his own firm or others. This means about 30,000 boxes. Mr. Fletcher who has returned from a week's trip into the apple belt says that the crop will be large and of good quality.

The yield in Smith mountain will be about 8000 boxes, Julian between 13,000 and 14,000 boxes, Wynola between 10,000 and 12,000. The returns from other sections of the county will aggregate between 10,000 and 12,000 boxes. Most of it is winter fruit. The greater part of Mr. Fletcher's purchase will be placed in cold storage in San Diego. Among the larger growers are: Geo. Cook of Smith mountain; Chester Gunn, W.D. Detrick and H. Morris of Julian, N.B. Rertum, Ford Bros. and H.J. Fuller of Wynola.

The grower gets \$20 per ton for the apples on the trees or 1 cent per pound. The packing will be done by packers employed by the buyer and will be of standard grades. It will be nearly a month yet, however, before the picking is commenced. [PB: N.B. Rertum is perhaps Lertum, Bertum, Rertum?]

A news item on Sylvester J. Mendenhall's apple production ran in the Escondido Times in October 1905 [34]:

S. J. Mendenhall, the prominent Palomar rancher, was in town Monday. He brought down a lot of fine apples, and expects to have six hundred boxes for shipment later. ...

The Escondido Times ran this note on Newton Ambrose Clark in November 1905 [36]:

N.A. Clark and brother, J.L., were in town several days the latter part of last week. N.A. formerly lived here and at Palomar. He now owns a large apple orchard on Palomar, and is making good money on the investment.

The Escondido Times ran this note on Marion Smith and Douglass's apples in November 1905 [37]:

Smith & Douglass, of Palomar, were in the city Wednesday with a wagon load of apples, which they were shipping to the various markets. [PB: newspaper misspelled Douglass as Douglas]

The Escondido Times ran this note on Marion Smith delivering apples in December 1905 [38]:

Marion Smith passed over the Escondido grade last Saturday with a four-horse wagon load of elegant big red mountain apples. One and one-half tons of apples at 3 cents a pound enlarges Mr. Smith's bank account just \$150. Show me an orange grove in Riverside county that can equal the apples of San Diego county and I will then be convinced that oranges pay best.

The Escondido Times Advocate ran this note on Marion Smith and B. F. Scott delivering apples in December 1905 [39]:

B.F. Scott and Marion Smith, two prosperous Palomar mountain ranchers were in Escondido last Friday with a load of fine cooking apples.

The San Diego Union ran a story on San Diego county agriculture in January 1906, which included this sentence [25]:

Clark Cleaver, Henry Meyer and Marion Smith are the largest apple growers of Smith mountain.

The Escondido Times ran this note on Alonzo Hayes in May 1906 [40]:

A.G. Hayes of Palomar had a large assignment of fruit trees arrive one day lately. He is planting 20 acres to apples on the mountains. It has been demonstrated that the apples of Palomar are equal to any in the United States.

The Escondido Times ran this note on Palomar apples in November 1906 [41]:

James Frazier and P. J. Fink of Palomar, returned from San Diego Thursday, where they had been with a load of apples [PB: P.J. Fink is probably Winbert Fink]

The Escondido Times-Advocate ran this note on Palomar apples in November 1907 [42]:

Bailey and Smith, of Palomar, are shipping a quantity of apples to market.

The Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate ran this note on Winbert Fink in December 1909 [43]:

W. Fink., of Palomar, brought an exceptionally fine load of apples to the city Wednesday.

The Pomona Daily review published this item on Nathan Chaffin Pedley and others regarding now-named Pedley valley on September 8, 1910 [81]:

Dr. E. Henderson, E.T. Palmer, N.C. Pedley and F.H. Merrill, who have bought a tract of land containing 280 acres down near San Diego are now setting 60 acres of the ground to apples. The apples grown in that section are of a fine quality, as has been proved by the samples that the doctor brought into the Review office today. The fruit is juicy and of good color and grew on trees which had not been watered or cultivated for four years. Some of the apples measured five inches around them.

The Escondido Weekly Times-Advocate ran this note on Clark Cleaver in December 1910 [44]:

Clark Cleaver of Palomar mountain sold 600 boxes of apples from his ranch this season.

The Pomona Progress reported on December 30, 1910 (the Crackerjack apple mentioned is Nickajack) [80]:

PLANTING APPLE ORCHARD

N.C. Pedley and son, Frank, have returned from Smith mountain, seventy five miles from San Diego, where they have been setting out an extensive apple orchard. They have 280 acres there, located in what is said to be one of the finest apple sections of California. There was two inches of snow on the ground in protected places while they were there. Samples of Rome Beauties, Newton Pippins and Crackerjacks grown on land adjoining that which they are setting out shows the wonderful possibilities of that section for apple culture. Irrigation is not needed to produce fruit which commands the highest market prices.

The Los Angeles Times had a story on a new planting on January 9, 1911 [26]:

TO RAISE BIG CROP OF PIPPINS

Pomona Man to Set Two Hundred and Eighty Acres to the Succulent Fruit of Eden.

POMONA, Jan. 3 – N.C. Pedley of the Consolidated Water Company, and his son, Frank, are home from Smith Mountain, San Diego county, where they have been for some time planting a large apple orchard. They have 280 acres of land there which is excellent for the growth of pippins, the soil requiring no irrigation and the fruit commanding the highest market price. The Pedleys are enthusiastic over the outlook.

The San Diego Union ran this story on Palomar apples on November 23, 1911 [27]:

SHIP 330 BOXES OF PALOMAR APPLES

Two Wagonloads of Mountain Fruit Weigh Nearly Eight Tons.

Special to the Union. Escondido, Nov. 22. – Three hundred and thirty boxes of the fine apples which grow on Palomar mountain were unloaded yesterday at the local depot of the American Auto Truck company, the Julian Produce company, for shipment to the

Doyle-Barnes company of San Diego by auto truck. The product of the mountain region was brought down the line by three expert teamsters, driving fourteen strong horses. C. E. Helms, who held the reins over six noble steeds, let the procession. The gross weight of his load, including wagon and trappings, was 8,380 pounds, while the number of boxes was 120. Marion Smith was second in the string with four good horses. He brought 108 boxes of apples, and the gross weight of his outfit was 7,520 pounds. Harry Smith brought up the rear, also with four fine horses, with 102 boxes, but he did not have his load weighed. The weighing was done at the Irwin Company scales. The apples were raised in the orchard of Louis Salmons, a brother of Frank A. Salmons of San Diego. The haul from the foot of the mountain grade to Escondido is 18 miles.

The Oceanside Blade published this item in November 1911 [57]:

Apple Crop is Harvested

The picking and packing of the apple crop on Palomar mountain was finished this week. The crop on the mountain was light, about 3500 boxes. Many of the orchards have been neglected and as a consequence the trees failed to bear as they should. The Doyle-Barnes company of San Diego bought and packed the entire crop. ...

Catherine Wood writes in 1937 [2]:

... Louis Salmons in days gone by, hauled twelve to fifteen thousand boxes of apples a season down Nate Harrison Grade. Apple raising was then a profitable industry, but crops are uncertain on account of late cold spells, so no new orchards have been planted in recent years.



Four horse wagon teams for hauling apples, undated Robert Asher photo

In May 1912, the Pomona Progress reported on Dr. Edward Henderson visiting his Palomar ranch in now-named Pedley Valley, travelling with George L. Travis who recently purchased Clark Cleaver's Palomar property [82]:

"G.L. TRAVIS, THE APPLE KING" NOW

It's "G.L. Travis, the apple king" now. Mr. Travis last week became the purchaser of the fine eighty acre apple orchard in Smith mountain, which formerly belonged to Cleaver, the apple king. Mrs. C.E. Rice fell heir to this property, and after due deliberation Mr. and Mrs. Rice deemed it advisable to sell the property. Mr. Travis, the purchaser, will make it his summer home. The orchard is without doubt the finest apple orchard in Smith mountain. The property is located sixteen miles from the well known Warner's ranch, higher up in the mountains, near the 280 acre ranch of Dr. Henderson and N.C. Pedley, of this city. Messrs. Henderson and Pedley also have a very fine ranch which they are now setting out to apples. Last week Dr. Henderson and son Ralph and Mr. Travis made an overland trip with a two-horse wagon, to these ranches. They were two and a half days going, camping out two nights. When they reached the ranch they found thirty inches of snow on the ground. Before they left the snow was melting rapidly, having done no damage to the fruit crop.

On August 24, 1912, the Pomona Progress noted [83]:

Mrs. N.C. Pedley and children have returned from their ranch on Smith mountain, San Diego county, where Mr. Pedley has 280 acres of land which he is planting to apples.

Robert Asher writes [1]:

[Nathan Hargrave] was a hustler and he put out many more apple trees to the east from the original Clark orchard. This was about January, 1913. He also built the two-story house. He had a four horse team and heavy lumber wagon and hauled many loads of apples down the mountain, and lumber, supplies, etc., back.

The Pomona Progress newspaper reported on January 16, 1913 [85]:

Elmer Pedley and Robert Nesbit left on Wednesday for Smith's mountain, San Diego county, where they will plant 25 acres of El Molino ranch to apple trees. The ranch is owned by N.C. Pedley.

The Pomona Progress newspaper reported on February 24, 1913 [84]:

HOME FROM SMITH MOUNTAIN

Mr. and Mrs. N.C. Pedley have returned from their apple ranch on Smith mountain in San Diego county. They were there during a heavy snow storm but left the mountains before the late storm. There is an abundance of game there and the scenery there is a counterpart of that of the eastern states. Mr. Pedley is planting a large acreage to apples this season.

The Pomona Progress newspaper reported on April 22, 1913, mentioning "young Pedley and wife" which is probably Frank and Estelle Pedley [86]:

N.C. Pedley and daughter, of North Pomona, returned on Sunday from the Pedley ranch at Smith mountain in San Diego county. Young Pedley and wife accompanied his father

in an automobile to the ranch and will remain there while he superintends the planting of an apple orchard.

Robert Asher writes [1]:

That fall of 1913 the apple crop was abundant and prices on the whole very good. I fancy that our friends [the Hewletts] felt very well pleased with their move from city to mountain life, and they continued to feel that way even in the face of the discouragement they later encountered. ... Palomar Mountain is subject to occasional late frosts which may destroy all apple blossoms that are out. If the freeze comes very late it gets everything. Some seasons, some varieties perversely refuse to bloom at all. I have heard it said that if an orchardist gets three good apple harvests out of five he is doing well, provided that he has a favorable market to go with the three good crops. The Hewlett's apple crop failed dismally three times in a row.

The Oceanside Blade ran this story on Palomar apples on September 6, 1913 [48]:

APPLE ORCHARDS OF PALOMAR BUSY SCENE

Local Men Are harvesting Thousands of Boxes of Luscious Mountain Fruit

Whitney & Goss and B.B. Higgins have begun the picking of apples on the orchards which they have leased on Palomar mountain. The early fruit has been picked and the pickers will be busy a few days with the main crop. Whitney, Goss and Higgins have under lease about fifty acres of the fine bearing orchards on the south and west sides of the mountain which have been neglected recently but are now being given proper care with a resultant increase in the size and quality of the crop. Palomar apples have in former years had a well deserved reputation for their fine quality but owing to the difficulties of transportation the growers have not had proper returns. With the advent of the auto truck, this has been changed. This year's crop will be hauled down the mountain directly to San Diego at a far less cost than has been the case when teams took the fruit to Escondido or Oceanside for shipment by rail. The size of the crop to be marketed by Whitney, Goss and Higgins is estimated at from 5000 to 8000 boxes. Apples are now bringing \$1.50 a box though this is an early season price.

The Oceanside Blade ran this item on October 4, 1913 [58]:

Oscar Williams of Pomona is down this week and will make arrangements to locate here this winter. He has an eighty acre apple ranch on Palomar mountain and has gone up to care for the crop. He plans to build a small warehouse here for storing some of his fruit and has rented the Carr cottage in the north part of town to live in while building his warehouse and a dwelling for himself. ...

The Oceanside Blade ran this item on October 18, 1913 [59]:

Whitney, Goss & Higgins, are busy harvesting an unusually large apple crop on Palomar Mountain, and so is Louis Salmons. Report says that Robert Asher of El Cajon, who purchased the crop on the old Cleaver place for \$300 has already picked 1000 boxes. Motor trucks and wagons are daily bringing down large loads.

The Oceanside Blade ran this item on April 18, 1914 [60]:

Ben F. Thorp took a load of young apple trees to Palomar on Saturday to re-set the Canfield orchard on the mountain.

The Oceanside Blade ran this item on May 1, 1915 [61]:

Packing Palomar Pippins

Oscar Williams went to Palomar mountain and will pack apples on the Hargrave ranch on the east end. There will be about five hundred boxes to put up, a job that will take several days.

The Oceanside Blade ran this item on May 29, 1915 [62]:

Ben F. Thorpe of the Canfield ranch at Bonsall, made a trip up Palomar Mountain on Sunday. He reports that the heavy frost about May 1st, destroyed the entire apple crop there for the season.

On April 8, 1916, the Oceanside Blade reported [68]:

Mr. Winbert C. Fink, who lives on the east end of Palomar, visited friends in this vicinity on Saturday. Mr. Fink reports losing his entire fruit crop in the recent cold storm. The trees were in full bloom.

The Oceanside Blade ran this item on April 22, 1916 [63]:

With the exception of one or two, the apple orchards of Palomar have thus far escaped serious damage from frost, and the prospects are good for an abundant crop.

In September 1916, the Oceanside Blade reported [69]:

Apples are ripening early this year. Mr. Fink began picking several weeks ago; B.H. Elmore was picking last week, and W.F. Hewlett will gather his Jonathans this week. The apples are highly colored and owing to the light crop, of good size.

The Oceanside Blade ran this item on November 3, 1917 [64]:

H.E. Scholl, a Long Beach dealer in citrus fruits, visited Palomar on Sunday. It is understood the object of Mr. Scholl's visit was to look over the apple situation with a view to the possible establishment of a receiving depot for the crop at the foot of the mountain. Owing to the destructive late spring freeze, there is not enough apple crop this year to market, but some such arrangement might be made a great convenience and advantage to the apple growers when the crop is normal.

The Escondido Times Advocate ran this item on October 17, 1918 [50]:

NELLIE, Oct. 15. – N.H. Hargrave, of Valley, returned to his home yesterday after a week spent in harvesting apples on his Palomar ranch. Apples are moving out rapidly. Louis Salmons is making daily trips down to Little Tin Can Flat on the west end grade with heavy loads of apples from the Hayes ranch. From the flat a truck will transport

them to San Diego by way of Rincon, Valley Center and Escondido. A San Diego truck came up yesterday and carries out a big load from the L.C. Smith orchard.

The Escondido Times Advocate listed Grape Day awards on September 10, 1919, including an award for Jack P. Roberts of Palomar Mountain [72]:

APPLES -- ... Palomar Mountain Giants: J.P. Roberts. ...

The Oceanside Blade ran this item on November 15, 1919 [65]:

The Webb Truck Co. this week finished hauling the Palomar Mountain apple crop with splendid success.

On August 6, 1920, the Escondido Times Advocate ran a story on a slogan contest for Palomar Mountain, with one of the prizes being a box of Palomar Mountain apples [73]:

The apples will be provided by Jack P. Roberts of the Palomar Mountain home, a new resort on the west end of the mountain, and will be the choice of orchards owned or controlled by Roberts, aggregating 100 acres.

The Escondido Daily Times Advocate ran this story on Jack Roberts' apples in September 1920 [28]:

HARVESTING APPLE CROP

PALOMAR FRUIT TO BE HAULED BY AUTO TRUCKS TO SAN DIEGO – BETTER ROADS NEEDED

Jack P. Roberts, of Palomar mountain, was in Escondido Tuesday rustling pickers and packers for the harvest of his crop of apples on the big hill, where, within the next three weeks, he will corral the product of more than 100 acres of choice orchard, either leased or controlled by him. The entire product will be shipped by truck to the Julian Produce company of San Diego. Roberts says with the advent of better road facilities for getting them to market, the apple industry, along with the growing of other deciduous fruit, is sure to become of much more importance than at present, in that road conditions, now about to be substantially bettered, previously have discourage orchard operations.

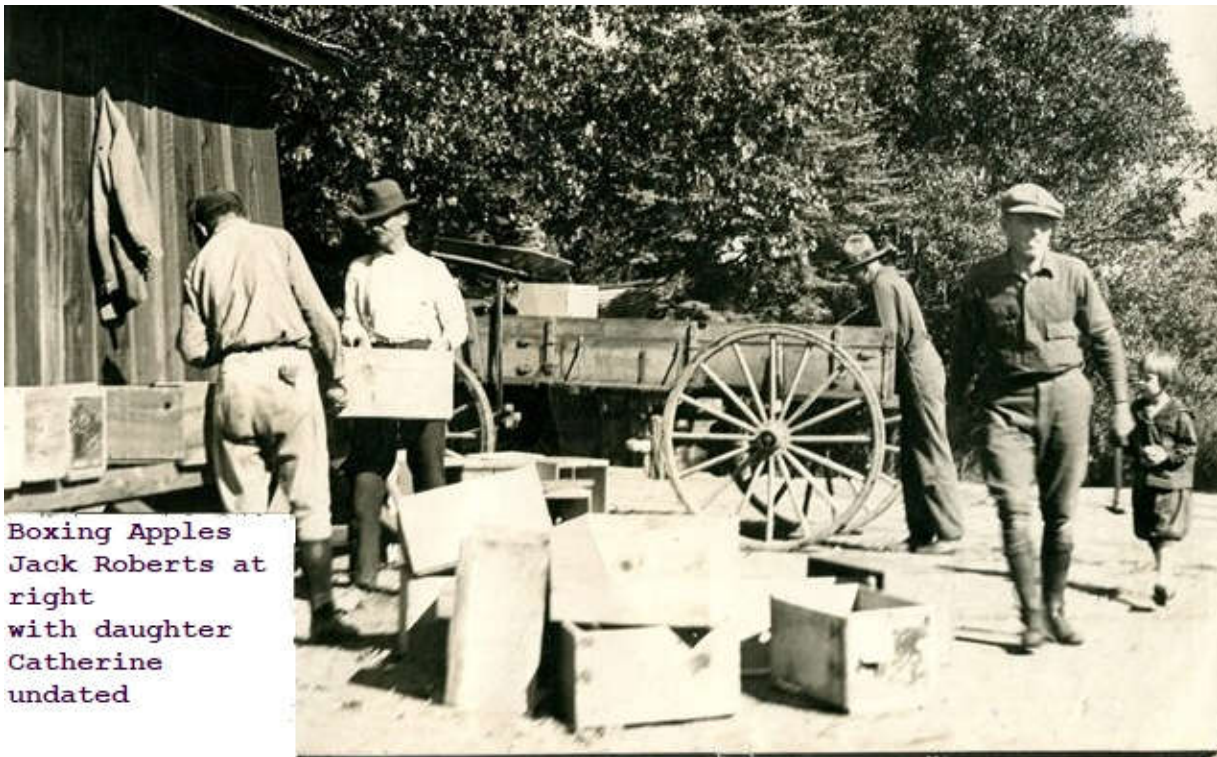
"I have no need to tell you," says Roberts, "that apples grow to perfection on Palomar. I agree with the recently adopted slogan: "There'll be nothing to mar Palomar," as soon as we get the roads fixed up. It's a cinch that more persons have been on Palomar this summer than for many years, and still they come, in spite of misleading statements given circulation. Speaking again of apples, diseases peculiar to them are practically unknown. Our annual rainfall, which last winter was better than 50 inches, or more than five times greater than the precipitation at San Diego city, on the coast, makes irrigation unnecessary. Early varieties of apples do as well as late eons. All of the popular varieties do well. The Palomar Giants and the Arkansas Beauties, which grow on the mountain, deserved to be better known. In my opinion the latter excel the far-famed Jonathan in size, flavor and keeping qualities; while the Giants are worthy of their name, weighing sometimes more than a pound."

A.G. Hayes, father-in-law of Roberts, owns one of the attractive apple ranches on the mountain. It is at Nellie –the name by which the mountain postoffice is known, but which may be changed to Palomar in the near future, as soon as a few yards of red tape can be

unwound. Roberts has leased the Hayes ranch, which includes 1000 heavily laden apple trees, which are admired by apple orchardists visiting the region. Roberts also has under lease the orchards owned by the C.A. Canfield estate. He is a strong advocate of the Whitney method of pruning, which he employed last season. Other apple growers on the mountain include Dr. Milton Bailey and Messrs. W.F. Fink, Louis Salmons and Ray McClard. ...



Mary "Mamie" Hayes (Jack Roberts' aunt-in-law) with Palomar Giant apples
undated Barbara Waite photo



Barbara Waite photo

The San Diego Union ran this story on frost killing Palomar apple blossoms in April 1921 [29]:

HEAVY FOG KILLS PALOMAR FRUITS

Trees Covered With Congealed Moisture Which Falls To Ground at Sunrise.

(Special to the Union) PLANWYDD, Palomar Mt., April 13. – This morning before Old Sol put Jack Frost to flight this grand old mountain was gorgeous with a heavy coating of congealed moisture, formed by the fog which swept in from the coast yesterday, running into a temperature of 20 degrees above zero. The stately pines, the wide spreading oaks and the blossoming apple trees as well as the underbrush and the wire fences wore the chilly garment, which even the wind could not shake until the sun came. With the sunshine as the lubricant, the ice came tumbling down in showers, until the ground beneath the trees was white with it – making possible snowballing among the few “tenderfeet” sojourning here. In the matter of fog appropriation, Jack Roberts at “Planwydd,” the new name of his resort, a short distance to the east of Silvercrest, says that Jack Frost had a bigger hand last night than ever before, the chances being that all of the deciduous fruit was destroyed. Practically all of the apple, peach and prune trees were in full bloom. The visit of Jack Frost, by the fog route, enveloped every blossom and cluster of buds in a thick coating of ice, causing them to resemble flowers under glass. ...

However, the Oceanside Blade published this item later in April 1921 [66]:

Palomar Paragraphs... April 23, 1921... On Wednesday and Thursday of this week Messrs. Gorton, County Horticultural Commissioner, and R.R. McLean, who is connected with the farm bureau department of the First National bank of San Diego, visited the Palomar Mountain apple orchards on a tour of inspection. Their report of the prospects of a crop was favorable, despite the recent storms. ...

The Escondido Daily Times Advocate listed the 1922 Grape Day festival prize winners including [71]:

Winter banana apple – J.P. Roberts 1; ...

Robert Asher wrote [1]:

[Jack Roberts] Planwydd was [later] unoccupied save by apple pickers for some time. ...
The 1938 apple crop was gathered and marketed by a Mrs. White of San Ysidro,

The Escondido Times-Advocate reported on Palomar apple crop damage in October 1943 [52]:

Palomar's Apples Destroyed by Gale

Palomar Mountain's crop of 1943 apples was practically destroyed by a severe gale Sunday evening, according to L.D. Juch, custodian of the Palomar State Park, who was an Escondido visitor Tuesday. It is reported that the wind reached a velocity of 68 miles an hour at the lookout on Boucher hill. While Palomar had its severe gale, sweeping the ripening apples from the trees, there was no unusual movement of the air in Escondido.

Marion Beckler reported in the Escondido Times-Advocate in October 1955 [53]:

PALOMAR MT. Apple Crop Small --- ... The apple trees, after last year's bumper crop, are producing very few apples, thought to be due to the late May snow. ...

CLARK CLEAVER

Clark Cleaver was prominently associated with Palomar Mountain apples. Newspapers at the time of Clark Cleaver's death in 1912, called him the "apple king" of the Escondido country which encompassed Palomar Mountain [4]. Newspaper obituaries said about Clark Cleaver that he "was well known in horticultural circles," his apples frequently won prizes at San Diego County fairs, and he was one of San Diego County's best boosters [4].

In the 'Agricultural Notes' section of the Pacific Rural Press issue of 2 November 1889, an item on Palomar Mountain agriculture incorporates correspondence from Clark Cleaver [5]:

ON PALOMAR MOUNTAIN. – The folks of Palomar mountain, 35 miles northward from Escondido, managed to get down a trail and place some fine pears, apples, butter and cheese at the late fair of the 22d district; and the *Times* publishes a letter from Clark Cleaver, of which the following is an extract: Our mountain has been heretofore pretty much devoted to stock-raising. ... The grass is of the best. There are large valleys – several hundred acres in each – with grass knee high, and with a sward so matted that it almost bids defiance to the plow. But once it is turned up, planted and cultivated, the yield is equal to the best anywhere. The soil does not bake nor get hard, but remains mellow and friable, and retains its moisture through the entire summer. Mr. Dyche has the oldest fruit trees on the mountain, planted about 28 years ago, and I am told they never fail to bear. Mr. Jefferson Cook has a little orchard just beginning to bear. Mr. Seaborn has quite a nice orchard of about 1800 trees, from two to three years old. The

majority, I believe, are apple and pear, but he has a general variety, cherry, peach, plum, etc. This mountain is surrounded on all sides by warm valleys. Escondido should be our trading town, but we have no road to get up or down the hill with a wagon on the south. The roads are so bad that the assessor failed to assess 3000 acres of land and 500 head of stock here.

In 1906, Clark Cleaver was reported as one of the largest Palomar Mountain apple growers, along with Henry Meyer and Marion Smith [6]. Cleaver had twelve acres of apple orchard on Palomar Mountain [4]. Cleaver and his help would drive two horseloads of apples down the steep Palomar Mountain roads, and then over the hard country roads to Escondido, the nearest railroad station [4]. Robert Asher wrote that a freight trip of Cleaver apples took four days round trip [7].

In 1907, the Escondido Times reported [8]:

Clark Cleaver of Palomar Mountain, stopped Saturday night at Shady Nook. He was on his way home from Escondido, where he had been with a load of apples. Mr. Cleaver has some fine apples. He was loaded this trip with the good old Winesap. These apples are not as large as some apples, but yum, yum, how good.”



Clark Cleaver in his apple orchard, undated. Robert Asher photo

Clark Cleaver produced a lot of apples. The Escondido Times-Advocate reported regularly on Cleaver's apple deliveries to town; for example, the newspaper reported that Cleaver was in town three times during the month of November 1905 with a load of apples [9]. In December 1910, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported that Clark Cleaver had sold 600 boxes of apples from his ranch that season [10].

Clark Cleaver wrote about apple farming on Palomar Mountain in February 1906 [11]:

Growing Apples on Palomar
Palomar, Feb. 20, 1906

ED. ADVOCATE -- : The following is just a small part of what I don't know about apple growing.

"I would like to learn something about the raising of apples: The best time to plant; the best kind to plant; the proper kind of soil -- its constituent elements necessary; its slope to the morning or evening sun; to the north or to the south, and at how great an altitude would it be possible to make apple growing, financially, a success?" Several of these questions were put in the question box when the Institute met in Escondido a dozen or more years ago, but no answer came out, to my knowledge. Since then I have been trying to dig the proper answers from the soil, the sky, the sun, the clouds, and the weather divinities in general. The answers have not always been satisfactory. The trees bought of nurserymen have not always been true to name, and some that were so, were not adapted to this locality. The best, so far as I have tried them are first: the Smith Cider; the Wagner, or Wine Sap; the Newton Pippin; the Pearmain -- when the season is long enough; the Lawver is also a good apple, when grown at this elevation (5400 ft) but when grown at a much less altitude, it is a spongy and juiceless affair. Another apple I have found a great favorite in the market, is the Baltimore Red, a dark red, large, and all nearly of the same size, of good flavor, and a good bearer. The Alexanders -- early fall, is also very fine here, an excellent cooker. -- The Jonathan also, I think, does well here -- in my neighbors orchards -- those I bought for Jonathan proved to be something not worth a name. The Ben Davis grown on this mountain, is also a fair apple, especially for cooking, being large, juicy and sound; the Gano, a similar apple, is also a good apple, grown to perfection here. The Northern Spy -- though not bearing early -- is one of the very best, and is at home here.

A few words about pruning. Nine or ten years ago, I learned, by expensive experience, that by having the limbs grow out alternately, instead of opposite to each other, that the trees were not so liable to break or split when loaded down with sleet or snow, or with fruit, as when the trees are trained to branch out three or four branches opposite to each other, thus forming finger divisions instead of thumb-like divisions. Almost any apple points with unerring finger to the exact spot where it should be clipped, but the Winesap, or Wagner, offers no indication. The limbs grow sixteen feet long, the same size all the way; and if you cut one of them off, the shoots fly out from it like a swarm of yellow jackets from their nest. Will some one tell how to prune it? The apple is admitted to be the king of the fruit family, and among the oldest. It was probably a fragrant Smith Cider, a luscious Winesap, or possibly a Pearmain; or it may have been a Maiden's Blush, but I rather incline to the belief that it was a Duchess, that Eve succeeded with in tempting Adam to his fall. However, whichever variety it may have been, Adam succumbed to the temptation, and where's the man that wouldn't?

CLARK CLEAVER

FOR SALE—Apples—Good seconds at
CLARK CLEAVER'S house, Nellie
Postoffice, at ½ cent a pound. 45-46x

The Escondido Times-Advocate reported on Clark Cleaver's apples in local stores in October 1910 [12]:

HOME GROWN APPLES

Superior Quality of Fruit From Smith Mountain

If anyone doubts the quality of San Diego County apples, they should try some of the fruit on display in local stores this week from the orchard of Clark Cleaver of Smith Mountain.

Some of the largest, most beautiful and well flavored apples to be found anywhere was among the lot, which included Bellefleurs, Tompkins County and Baltimore Reds. A number were taken at random from the boxes and weighed and the average was about ten ounces each, and the fruit was without blemish, richly colored and excellent in all respects.



Clark Cleaver's Apple Orchard and Corn Plantation, Summer 1904 Robert Asher photograph

Robert Asher writes [1]:

One late fall day after I had settled in my canyon I had been up to Bailey's by way of Doane Valley. Cleaver had not been at the post office as usual for his mail, so I decided to return home the longer way. A young man named Burns was working for Mr. Cleaver, and I found him alone, Cleaver having gone down to Escondido with a load of apples. Burns invited me to have lunch with him, which invitation I was quite glad to accept. After lunch had been properly stowed away, Burns told me they were behind on the apple-picking and that I had better stay overnight and help out. I agreed readily enough, and, taking picking sacks along, we were soon busily at work in the orchard. After awhile the fog came up from below, but we kept the apples moving merrily. Finally, however, a wind sprung up and it suddenly turned cold. We stood it for a half-hour or so; then Burns declared that he had stood all the freezing he was going to, and started for the cabin. We had barely gained shelter when it began to rain. Soon it turned still colder and Burns

started the fire. But even the fire failed to temper the cold for us poor lambs and we decided to go to bed, Burns in his own cot on one side of the room, and I in Cleaver's more luxurious bedstead on the other. ...

Although I had never laid claim to being an expert apple packer, Mr. Cleaver seemed to like my packing and had me help get out a good many loads. He stored the apples over winter in a picturesque old barn which seemed to be on the verge of collapsing utterly for many a year before it finally succumbed to the wrecking bar. The walls were fashioned of upright poles, stockade style. The barn had a dirt floor, fairly dry in one end, but generally quite moist on the other. There was enough moisture to keep the apples fairly plump all winter, and, while there was some decay, many apples would be found to be perfectly sound far into the spring. We sorted and packed the apples right in the barn, often with the snow inches deep outside.

About the only thing that would keep the old man off the road to market was the San Luis River too high to ford, or badly washed and impassable roads. One day when I dropped in on Cleaver, he asked me how soon I would be going down.

"Pretty soon," I said.

"Well," said Cleaver, "you come up next week with your blankets and things and I'll take you down as far as Escondido. Better come up a day or two before starting time and help me get a load of apples ready."

I cannot now recall exact details, but I do remember that after we had the apples packed and loaded into the wagon for an early start the next morning, it began to snow. And it snowed, and it snowed, and it snowed. Then it cleared off with over a foot of snow on the ground. The sun shone brightly and the snow began to melt. Night came with a good stiff breeze. Cleaver was stirring at daylight.

"We'll try to make it," he said, as he started the fire. "I don't think the snow is deep enough to stop us."



Clark Cleaver and his Barn.

Clark Cleaver and his barn, Summer 1904. Robert Asher photo

We started early and, although there was a stiff crust on the snow, the team pulled the loaded wagon easily enough until we came to a little rise just before the main road. Here the horses started whipsawing, first one would pull ahead, and then the other, not pulling together as they should. My memory fails me as to the names of those two particular nags, but for the sake of the story, we will call them Pete and Sally. Pete was considerably larger than Sally and a good puller. Sally didn't seem to want to pull at all. Cleaver handed me the whip and told me to give her a good whack when he gave the word to Pete. I took the whip, fully determined to give her a good one when the time came. But the word came a bit quicker than I expected and Pete had surged to the front and had the full weight of the pull on his collar before I could get into action, the mare having hung back. The whip started her, but by this time Pete had become discouraged and he had simply quit pulling. Then the mare stalled, too, and there we were! And there I was listening to a little curtain lecture -- which ended with the words:

"Now, we will try again. I'll give you the high sign to whack just as I'm about to speak to Pete."



Snow scene taken above Clark Cleaver's apple orchard, looking towards the ocean, November 1906

Robert Asher photo

This time we succeeded in getting the two animals pulling together. Once on the main road we got along nicely. The sun had begun to soften the crust, the snow was not over a foot deep, and we were going downgrade. But after a while we reached the shady side of the hill near the Mack-Hayes Place, The pulling seemed to be harder and the team began seesawing again. Cleaver hastily handed me the whip and then gave the high sign. Both horses jumped ahead together as he gave the word to Pete.

Creack! Bang! from beneath our feet. "Whoa!" yelled Cleaver, "Whoa! Whoa!" As the horses settled down, Cleaver handed me the lines.

"Something's broke," he said, as he scrambled down. "Doubletree's busted," he reported a moment later. "I'm going up to the house to see if Hayes has one he can spare."

It seemed to me that Cleaver had been gone a long, long time, but finally he turned up with a piece of pine scantling in his hands. "Wish it was oak," he complained, "but maybe it will hold. Hayes wasn't home. You better get some wire out of the jockey box."

I climbed down from the high seat and opened up the jockey box. It was jammed full of odds and ends, mostly neatly folded hanks of baling wire. Cleaver removed the broken oak piece and substituted the pine, tying everything in place with strands of the baling wire. We hitched up the team. Then Cleaver happened to glance under the wagon:

"Snow up to the axles," he snapped, "look there! That's what stalled 'em. We'll pull the wagon to the side of the road and go home until the snow has a chance to melt a bit."



Clark Cleaver at his foggy apple orchard, undated. Robert Asher photo

I looked and, sure enough, there was the heavy crust of snow buckled up in front of the forward axle.

"No use trying to buck that crust," continued the old man. "If it were a couple of inches lower, we might make it but not as it is."

Now there was a pretty kettle of fish. If there is anything I hate more than anything else, it is to be held up when I get all set to go somewhere. I don't like it now, and I didn't like it then. So I suggested that we might get the horses started again if we shoveled the snow away from in front of the wagon a few feet.

"And who is going to do the shoveling?" queried Cleaver. "Not I by several shakes of a lamb's tail. If you want to do the shoveling -- why, go right ahead."

"All right," I said, "just watch my dust!"



Men packing apples in Clark Cleaver orchard, August-October 1911 Robert Asher photograph

I had shoveled ahead of the wheels for about twenty feet when Cleaver called out, "That will do. I think the team can make it now. Climb on!"

I stuck the shovel into the wagon and climbed up to the seat. Cleaver switched Sally's rump as he spoke to Pete, and away we went, for about a hundred feet, then the horses stalled again. I took off my coat and laid it on the seat.

"Kinda warm shoveling!" remarked Cleaver.

"Sure is," I assented, "Makes a fellow sweat." And that shoveling certainly kept me sweating. I would clear off a space in front of the wheels, and stand aside to let the wagon go by. The outfit would go along nicely for about so far. Then the horses would make up their minds they had done their full duty for the time being and stop dead in their tracks. More shoveling. Another spurt. And so it went, with the exception of two or three breathing spells for me, all the way to the Saddle, just above Nate's. And just in time, for somebody was well-nigh completely tuckered out. And that somebody was me!



Clark Cleaver at age 86, and some of his Palomar Mountain apple crop, August-October 1911.
Clark Cleaver passed away the following spring. Robert Asher photograph

In 1918, Jack and Elsie Roberts moved onto Palomar Mountain, and began farming apples there along with other work activities [70]. Elsie kept a diary which included notes on their work with Palomar's apple orchards. Following are apple-related excerpts from her diary [70]:

1918

MAY: ... Jack has leased all available apple orchards on the mountain to add to the thirteen acres of apples on Papa's ranch [PB: Alonzo Hayes].

JUNE: ... Jack is digging out weeds between the apple trees, getting rid of suckers. It is hard work. ...

AUGUST: ... Jack is cutting props for apple trees and picking apples again. Jack left early for Elsinore August 2 taking ten boxes of early apples. I hoed up morning glory vines among the apple trees with Catherine [PB: Jack and Elsie's daughter] in a box hung from a tree. I climbed trees to pick early apples, taking Jack's place in that work. ... [August 8] Papa sent down six boxes of apples... Picked more early apples August 12. ... [August 16th] Got "Palomar Giants" – extremely large apples to show. Jack and Papa cut and put up props for apple trees when they can find time. ... On August 25, I helped Jack pick nine boxes, nearly all from one apple tree (not packed).

SEPTEMBER: ... Jack sold apples to Mr. Plummer, \$2.65 a hundred, delivered to the foot of grade [PB: Nate Harrison Grade]. I put baby Catherine on the ground while I picked apples. Later, I left Catherine in an apple box while I hoed up pesty wild morning glory vines. ... Papa went by horseback to try to get Indians as apple pickers. By September 24, we began picking regular crop. Picked about fifty lug boxes. Jack went down the grade for more apple boxes. He stayed at Nate's the next night. Got home at 9 a.m. Mr. Hill and Mr. Hewlett helping us pick. I put Catherine on ground in the orchard again while I picked. ... [Last day in September] Four Indians working here now. ...

OCTOBER: Jack took down fifty-two boxes of apples and brought back empty boxes. Apples piled high under the firs. A week later – Sadie and I picked up apples the wind had blown down. ...

NOVEMBER: [After Thanksgiving] ... As I recall, it was an extremely busy apple season with many workers picking, sorting, packing, drying and hauling apples. Of course, we women were kept very busy helping them as well as providing three meals a day for the apple crew.

1919

JANUARY: New Year's Day ... An Indian, Peter Grand, came back bringing teams and wagon last night. Today, he and Jack each took two loads of apples to the saddle) the low point between two hills, just above Nate's cabin) today, first time by sleds, then wagon. Snow is melting fast. ...

... Pete took apples down the grade... Pete took another load of apples down ... Helped Jack a little with apples... Jack left unexpectedly for San Diego with the carrier, as our apple arrangements need care. ... Helped a little sorting apples ... Jack's new apple arrangements are good. ... Jack went down the grade with a load of apples again, bringing up hay. ... [January 22] Jack hauled apples again... A horse kicked our hired man, Pete, last night so Jack went with him to La Jolla Indian Reservation and arranged

for Tony to come up. Despite the fog Jack, mother, and I packed the last of the apples (with some extras saved). Papa took down one load, Tony another. They seem to keep rather well having lasted in storage for seven months. We keep them from touching each other by using hay or newspaper.

MARCH: ... Jack pruned fifty-seven apple trees. ... Jack stays busy pruning, but has finished the worst trees. ... Modesto came late last night, so began boarding with three meals today. Jack has now pruned at least 220 apple trees and is burning stumps, too. ... Modesto took a load of apples down to the river. ... Jack pruned forty more trees. ... [Mid-March} ... Modesto back from hauling alone as Pete wen to Pala for better horses. ... More stormy, so that the Indians left for home, taking a load of apples on their way. ...

APRIL: ... we all sorted apples with Catherine outside in her pen. ... Mr. Castle is plowing the orchard ... Took Catherine out to orchard where Jack was pruning and sowing clover. The clover helps combat other weeds and attracts bees that aid in pollination. ... Cooking seems to take a large part of my time! I do grow weary of the constant need to cook for all the hired men. ... I helped mother sort apples, ... Jack and Mr. Castle finished planting the clover in the orchard across the road. ...

JUNE: ... Jack talked with Mr. Ben Thorpe who is with San Diego Farm Bureau, at Bonsall. He thinks favorably of the contract for Canfield orchards. ...

JULY: ... I walked fast to Boucher's where Jack and Fred had already picked apples to take when Jack should go for them Saturday. ... We went to Boucher's with Jack and helped pick apples.

AUGUST: Jack left for Elsinore taking with him five boxes of apples. ... Papa, Mother, Aunt Marnie, and I all picked early apples and crab apples. I climbed the trees. ... Jack went to San Diego with a good load of apples, crab apples and others, Aunt Mamie and I cut over ten trays of apples to dry. ... Jack left for San Diego with apples. Mr. Asher here for two meals, helping Papa and Fred pick Palomar Giants. ... Papa left with the team for Escondido, taking apples for Jack who came back with passengers. ...

SEPTEMBER: ... Began picking regular apples starting with Jonathans, on September 11. ... 100 boxes of Jonathans picked. ... Charley picked King apples. ... Jack brought ... a packer, Mr. Swain, up from San Diego. There is so much work with the apples and cooking for the hired help. ... Work began on Cleaver Orchard ... Work on Cleaver orchard is finished. Truck came up and took down 125 packed boxes. ... Rain and fog in earnest so the work on the apples cannot go on. ...

OCTOBER: Jack got back from San Diego with an elderly gentleman (really) to pick apples. Mr. Quarles, an interesting type. ... Jack went to Oceanside, taking twelve boxes of apples to Wisdoms and came back in afternoon. Mr. Quarles left, as work picking scattering apples, high in trees at Boucher's orchard was too hard for him. ... Truck came with Mr. Shook for 500 boxes. ... Last apples at Boucher's picked today. They are packed at Silvercrest. ... Several sets of people came for apples, culls, in answer to Jack's advertisements. ... Last of the apples on this place are picked. Some of the men picked in Doane Valley. ... Picking on Adams place began. ... Packing was begun today in Adams' orchard. ...

1920

January: ... We took lunch in the Cleaver orchard where Jack was pruning. ... Aunt Marnie, Catherine, and I went to the Cleaver orchard again, taking lunch for the three men now pruning and dragging brush there. ...

MARCH: Mr. Asher ... is also pruning apple trees for us on the Adams' place. Ray and Mr. Asher are helping prune there [PB: Adams' place] ... The men finished plowing part of Boucher's. ... The boys went to Boucher's with camping outfit to stay three days or so. They are plowing the orchards. ... Jack is now plowing the Cleaver orchard. ...

APRIL: ... Ray came back from San Diego, his father coming too. That makes three hired men at a time now. Pruning and plowing in various orchards. ... Jack started the Indians plowing and the boys finished pruning there [PB: Adams' place] today. ...

1921

January: ... Jack has pruned about sixty trees when it is not too stormy. ...

October 15: Picked apples from three Smith cider trees and one Ben Davis tree. ...

1922

March: ... [Jack] finished pruning orchards on this place on March 25. ...

1923: ... We needed helpers not only for the resort, but also in the apple season. For several years, when Jack leased all available orchards on the mountain, we needed a big crew of pickers and packers each fall. The Webb brothers of Escondido hauled the filled boxes in large trucks. The first year (1918), the workers in the orchards were Indians from below the mountain. ... Usually Jack hired all help through a San Diego employment agency – apple pickers as well as a summer cook and waitresses who also served as chambermaids. ...

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